
2209 6/20/1864 *From:* C H Howard
A.D.C.

To: Gen'l [OO Howard]

OOH-2148

At Rives' House

Source: Bowdoin

[34]

At Rives' House

[June, 1864?] [This letter had been undated. A date was added in pencil. A reference to Powder Springs road in OO Howard's Autobiography was on June 22, so assume June 20, 1864.]

Gen'l

As Gen. Kilpatrick suggested that the Infantry take the Dallas road I send you information obtained of Mr. Rives, and a sketch showing that there is a fork of the roads here, the left leading to Powder Springs 3 ½ ms. and the right (or as it appears the straight road) makes a fork 2 miles from here where the right leads to Lost Mt. and the left to Dallas.

Gen. Belknap's head of column has just come in sight and I suppose will go on to Powder Springs unless you order otherwise. But if you wish him to change his plan and take this right hand road & go on towards Dallas this way, an order would probably reach him before he had got more than a mile on the Powder Springs road. Kilpatrick seems to have no difficulty in that quarter.

Respectfully
C H Howard
A.D.C.

[Sketch of the region.]

Rives house
(near Powder Springs)
Howard, C.H.
Lt. Col. & A.D.C.

Gives information concerning reconaissance towards Powder Springs, also concerning Gen. Kilpatrick's operations

2198 6/2/1864

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2149

Source: Bowdoin

Headquarters Fourth
Army Corps,
Department of the
Cumberland
Near Dallas Ga.

[534]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Fourth Army Corps,
Department of the Cumberland
Near Dallas, Ga. June 2nd 1864

Dearest,

I was lucky enough to receive three letters from you last night, just as I was lying down for the night, mailed 11th, 21st & 23d of May. I am glad you received my telegram from Resacca and hope you did another, after Captain Stinson was wounded. The Newspapers put in things without mercy.

At a severe encounter near Picketts mill, I received a slight bruise from a piece of a shell and my little toe aches some yet, but the thickness of the sole of my boot and a kind Providence saved me from a serious injury. Not so with hundreds of other poor fellows. Capt. Stinson is cheerful and is doing well. The staff takes turns in staying with him. Gilbreth did so last night and I hav'nt heard this morning how he is. The Dr. said yesterday his appetite was good & had no fever. The ball passed through the upper part of the lungs & below the shoulder, going quite through him.

We have met the enemy here in heavy force. Not being successful the first evening in dislodging the enemy from Dallas, the two armies faced each other and intrenched. There has been a great deal of fighting sometimes one army attacking & sometimes the other but as yet without any decisive result. Before this reaches you something will occur.

Capt. Gilbreth has returned & says Stinson is brighter than he has been at all. As soon as he is able we will send him at least to Cleveland. God grant he may fully recover & we think he will.

Charles is quite well. I am very much rejoiced that Guy knows how to act uprightly. But "let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." At times I have gone very, very far astray. May god forgive me and never visit my sins upon us in our children.

These operations are necessarily much prolonged and there is a degree of uncertainty attending them, but I have confidence in God that all will be right. The weather is very hot and very dry day after day and no rain. We have at last really got into the sunny south. We are encamped in a wood. My tent was our only and that we gave to Stinson. Charles & I put our robes on the ground under a tent fly and when the rebels will let us, we sleep very well.

Give my love and sympathy to Mrs Stinson. Gilbreth is well. Sam is well tell Julia & continues his good care of me. I am hoping strongly that the present campaigns will end the war, and I pray for it. Gen Wood talks to me of his home. He has lost his only child, and his wife is very dear to him. Charles is writing to Mother. God bless you & Guy and Grace and Jamie & Chancy & the rest.

Lovingly
Otis

2199 6/4/1864

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2150

Hd Qrs 4th Corps Near
Dallas, Ga.

Source: Bowdoin

[527]

Hd Qrs 4th Corps Near Dallas, Ga.
June 4th 1864

Dearest,

I am detaining an officer about to start for Chat'a. long enough to say that we are well. My little toe aches some but is no serious trouble, about as much as a corn on the foot.

Capt. Stinson continues to do well, is cheerful and happy. Frank Gilman staid with him last night. He proposes to go to Cleveland E. Tenn. as soon as he can.

I say nothing of our operations because of the liability of Capture.

Gilbreth is in fine health and spirits.

Much love to all the Children. God bless you all.

With much love
Otis

Chas. sends love. How badly was Clark Curtis wounded. Kind regards to Isabella.

2200 6/7/1864

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2151

Head Quarters 4th
Corps
Near Acworth Georgia

Source: Bowdoin

[528]

Head Quarters 4th Corps
Near Acworth Georgia
June 7th 1864

Dearest,

My Corps has been so changed in position that communication which was disturbed for a few days has been reestablished. The enemy left our front last Saturday night and retired toward Atlanta, so that we had quite a comfortable sabbath. I say this for my command occupied breast works in places about 85 paces from those of the rebels, and constant firing was kept up for several days. The men on neither side could move about without exposure. I was only a portion of the army then held & exposed but my corps had to stand it & became very much exhausted. My command has been in action at Dalton, Recessa, Adairsville, Altoona, Kingston & Cassville and near Picketts mill between Dallas & Acworth. We have worked very hard & sometimes lost heavily.

The wilderness here is almost universal. There are, however, more farms here than near Dallas; perhaps averaging 1/3d cleared land and 2/3d woods. All the cultivated land or nearly all is sown with wheat, or rye or planted with corn. The people nearly all leave on our approach. The poor are an exception. They stay in fear and trembling. No negroes are left. The country must be thickly settled south of the Chattahoochee.

I had a telegram asking about Harry Stinson, from the Sec. of War, this morning. Fortunately, telegraphic communication had just been established and I went up to Acworth on a visit to Gen. Sherman. While there the telegram arrived and I answered it at once. It must be Blaine & Morrill who are inquiring through the Sec. of War. Stinson has had no drawback, always is cheerful and pleasant, has good care. Today he is being moved to Acworth, which I dread, I am anxious to hear how he stood the journey. Our ambulance at Hd. Qrs. went to move him, for his bed could be pushed right into it, so that he would be very little disturbed by the transfers. As soon as the bridge is down and the cars can come here he will be sent to Cleveland E.T. or Chatt'a where he will remain till able to go home. We regard him as out of danger.

Give my love to Mrs Stinson & tell her the above. So noble, so worthy, so beloved a young man as Harry Stinson will not be neglected when disabled.

Charlie, Frank & Gilbreth are well. We are now stopping in a nice little abandoned Cottage, Sqr. Peter's. Have cleaned it out, had the floor faithfully scrubbed and now present quite a respectable appearance. The men are resting today, supplies are coming up. More work is before us, but I trust the same strong arm will carry us through the same that has given us support hitherto.

Gen. Sherman is rather tight with Army correspondents, so that you do not hear as much from us as from the Army of the Potomac. Operations here are on a very extensive scale.

Give much love to Guy, Grace, Jamie, Chancy and yourself. I hope they are all well. Papa remembers them all in his morning & evening prayers. Guy & Grace must never forget to pray for Papa, that he may have wisdom & do right. Give kind regards to Isabella & tell us about Clark. Sam is well tell Julia - has'nt got to Athens Ga. yet, but we are on the way thither via Atlanta. I hope Mother gets Charlie's letters. Father is not quite well, Del writes.

God bless and keep you all. Lovingly,
Otis

P.S. There are no paymasters near us. I dont know but you may have to go on credit awhile.

The Dr. says Capt. Stinson is standing the ride well.

2201 6/8/1864

From: Grace [Howard]

To: My Dear Papa [OO
Howard]

OOH-2152

Augusta

Source: Bowdoin

[34]

Augusta June 8th 1864

My Dear Papa

I have not got any writing book. Mamma said I might write you a letter. Jamie goes to school every day and has learnt to pronounce real nice. Miss Woodward says that he will go to college. Jamie can read just like a big boy. Cousen Mary and Cousen Lizzie go to school every day. Some day Miss Woodward and I are going to see them and then we all are going to see the cascade. I suppose you know where that is because you used to go to school there. Papa dont forget my birthday which will come the 22d of this month. I dont expect you will send me a present, but if you can send me a letter I should like very much to receive it. I stood Chancy up against the wall this morning and he walked to me. Please to write me soon.

Goodbye

From
Grace

[the following was written by Lizzie on the same paper]

I will just write, Dearest that we are all very well here. Grace wrote her letter at school. Guy is now going to take it to the P.O. on his way to school. We are feeling sad about Harry's wound. Glad he is on his way home. I dont think you are wounded in the foot or at all, although the paper last night said so.

Ever your own
Lizzie

2202 6/8/1864

From: E.W. [Eliphalet
Whittlesey]

To: Dear General [OO
Howard]

OOH-2153

Brunswick

Source: Bowdoin

[106]

Brunswick June 8th [1864]

Dear General

It is just a year today since with much regret I bade you adieu at our beautiful Hd. Qrs. near Brooks Station. It seems a long time since I was in the midst of exciting army movements, but my interest in what is transpiring has not abated. One can hardly think of anything else. I go through my daily routine of College duties, & try to be faithful, but my thoughts are often with you in Georgia, or with Grant in Va. What a month the last has been! Hard fighting, and terrible destruction of life on both sides; but the blessing of God seems to rest upon our cause. Our two great Armies appear to be gaining ground every day. Banks has made a sad failure west of the Miss., but we hope Canby will repair the losses there, as Hunter has Sigel's blunders in West Va.

We have been told that you were wounded lately, near Dallas, in the foot, one account says seriously, another slightly, the last I hope is the true story. We cannot afford to lose your services now even for a short time.

And as to Stinson I am yet in doubt. One account is that Major Stinson of 5th Maine is mortally wounded, & another that Capt. Stinson A.D.C. to Gen. Johnson is the man. I hope to hear that our Capt. S. is yet safe. How sad our losses have been in Officers. It is hard to realize that Sedgwick has fallen. But I will not dwell on this dark side of the times. The army has fought nobly, and no part of it has done more hard work, or gained more honor than our old 2nd Corps. You have seen how Barlow goes ahead, & how Hancock is rising. He was named for Vice President at Baltimore, but the preference for Johnson of Tenn. was so strong, that Hancock's friends did not urge his claims.

There is general satisfaction with the results of the Convention, & no fear is felt about the Election of Lincoln & Johnson. The people are more united than ever, & the work done for the Army increases from day to day. I am all the time engaged supplying the place of some minister who is absent in the service of the Christian Com. Just now Mr. Fiske! of Bath.

Your last letter reached me a few days ago, having first gone to Brunswick Mo. instead of Me. Please write next time Maine.

Your transfer to the 4th Corps settled all my expectations of returning to your Staff.

The bell will ring for my recitation in 3 minutes and I must close with a hearty God bless you all.

E.W. [Eliphalet Whittlesey]

Give my regards to all my friends. Packard was here a moment since and sends his regards and thanks for your kind message to which he will respond. We are all well at home.

2203 6/10/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2154

Source: Bowdoin

Head Quarters 5th
Corps Near Acworth,
Ga.
House of Sqr. Peter's

[529]

Head Quarters 4th Corps Near Acworth, Ga.
June 10th 1864
House of Sqr. Peter's

Dearest,

We are all quite well. Capt. Stinson doing nicely, will probably be able to get to Cleveland monday or tuesday next. We go towards the enemy this morning. The papers say very little of the 4th A.C. but it has worked hard and fought hard. I read the 46th Chap of <Is[CHECK ORIGINAL- page separated]> this morning and felt as though we should cut down their wildernesses but that as a people we cannot go unchastened.

Give much love to the children. God bless and keep all the precious household.

Lovingly,
Otis

2204 6/11/1864 *From:* T.A. Meysenburg

To: Dear General [OO
Howard]

OOH-2155

Martinsburg, Va

Source: Bowdoin

[107]

Martinsburg, Va
June 11, 1864

Dear General,

With the greatest feelings of sorrow did I notice that you and Capt Stinson were wounded in one of your late engagements. The papers state Capt Stinson's wound is dangerous but that yours is not. I hope the latter is so and also hope that Stinson's wound is not so serious as represented. Even a momentary disability from taking part in the operations I know will annoy you very much, but it was fortunate that during your hard fought battles you came off with comparatively little injury.

General, you can not afford to lose much more, than you have already done for your country's cause and it is my sincere wish that you will be spared from any further suffering, although a wound in the foot even if not dangerous is in most cases painful.

Undoubtedly you have heard before this of our disaster at New Market which altogether was a small affair. The enemy had decided advantages in position and number the latter especially.

Genl Hunter has been more fortunate in not meeting with much opposition. Genl Sigel seems to be unfortunate of late, for which I must say I am unable to account. His constant hard-working has affected his health too, to such a degree, that he has been suffering for three weeks. Genl S. who has the very best feelings towards you, General, desires me to give you his compliments and his best wishes.

If your Secretary should have an opportunity to send the books of the 11th Corps, I would ask you to address them to Martinsburg, Va. so that I can send the whole papers & books together. Sincerely hoping that further success will attend your untiring perseverance and that you will not lose the services of so amiable and valuable an officer as Capt Stinson to whom and Lt Col Howard I wish to be remembered.

I remain General
as ever yours
with sincerity
T.A. Meysenburg

2205 6/12/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2156

Head Qrs 4th Army
Corps
Near Marietta Ga.

Source: Bowdoin

[530]

Head Qrs 4th Army Corps
Near Marietta Ga.
June 12th 1864

Dearest,

I find it necessary during the campaign to write with a pencil. I received your letter mailed 27th ult. You had just gotten my note from Dalton.

I hoped, that after we were well through the Alatoona range of mountains we should have open country, but no, we are in an interminable wilderness. There is an occasional little farm in a clearing with a small windowless log cabin.

Yesterday we came across a family of (6) six very pretty children. The mother & her little boy had sown a couple of acres of wheat & planted some corn. Our soldiers had taken nearly everything - our animals eaten & destroyed the wheat & much of the corn. She talked to me and cried, "Her husband is in the rebel army, but she and the little ones did not bring on the war". Oh, how much misery & suffering grows out of this rebellion. Would God it might have an end.

Johnston appears to be making a stand this side of Marietta. In these woods we have to work up to him very cautiously. His lines are often five or six miles long and sometimes longer. For two or three days we have had continuous & heavy showers. Now it has set in for a long storm.

I hav'nt had a tent since we gave Capt. Stinson our only one, till night before last. A Q.M. who had one heard of my destitution & kindly sent me one. I turned in my cot & slept on the ground, but Capt. Kalenbaugh our Provost Marshall had me another made. They (my staff) wont let me share the hardships with them. "It is so necessary to have few wagons that everybody is obliged to retrench."

Harry Stinson sent me his love from Acworth. The cars are through & he expects to go to Cleveland today. He has not yet had an unfavorable symptom. His perfect health, good habits and cheerful temper, are all in his favor.

The mail man is waiting for me. Give much love to Guy, Grace, Jamie & Chancy. "Now he creeps & plays with Guy's foot ball" and "Now he sleeps quietly & sweetly in his cradle". All sweet home pictures. We pitch in the wilderness & long for the end of the war & home. My kind regards to Isabella, also to Julia. Tell Julia that Sam is still faithful & well.

Remember me to all our friends. Gilbreth & Charles are in good health. God bless you all.

Lovingly,
Otis

2206 6/12/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-2157

Head Quarters 4th
Corps
Near Marietta Ga.

Source: Bowdoin

[150]

Head Quarters 4th Corps June 12th [1864 O.O.H. was written in pencil, possibly by OO Howard.]
Near Marietta Ga. (Sunday evening)

My dear Mother

I have just come back to my tent from tea. My tent is the only one. The rest arrange a tent fly for two or four. We take our tea under a fly fixed thus: [sketch of a tarp extended over a ridge pole and staked down on the two sides.] When you locate us in the midst of a big forest you form a good notion of the whereabouts of your boys. This is a very woody country, very few farms, an occasional clearing and a log cabin often without windows. We shall find more open country doubtless after crossing the Chattahoochee.

We had very beautiful weather till lately. Now the rains seem to have set in. The roads are getting very bad. The army wagons are heavy and when some (20) twenty miles of them pass over a road during a rain, it is generally rendered nearly impassible. Such is the case just now.

Charles may have spoken of my wound - it amounted to just as much as a stone bruise used to when I was a little boy & ran about without shoes. It has been painful & troublesome but not enough to prevent me from riding every day. The piece of shell struck me on the side of the right foot near the little toe spending its main force against the sole of the boot which is quite thick. At first all the toes were discolored, but after a couple of days the little toe only was troublesome.

Capt. Stinson sends his love to me this evening from Acworth. He was shot quite through the body, but has suffered very little pain and has had no drawback. The cars will probably take him back tomorrow as they are now through.

The rebels are in large force in our front probably seventy thousand strong. They work hard, dig long lines of intrenchments (five & six miles in extent) under the cover of these almost interminable forests. The breastwork is usually first made of logs & then dirt thrown on the side towards us. We get as near them as we can without sacrifice of life and confront them by the same kind of works thus: [sketch of a pile of logs and dirt in front with the heads of three men standing behind it] I have left a part of the logs uncovered [in the sketch]. Sometimes the men arrange a top log with a narrow opening beneath to keep the enemy's sharpshooters & skirmishers from hitting their heads.

You may imagine that such serious business keeps every face rather dolorous. On the contrary the majority are light hearted. It is like all work you get used to it. At times it is painful, fatiguing in the extreme and affecting to carry on operations but the scenes keep changing.

Our sabbaths are not well improved and I feel the need of better ones. I believe my reliance upon God is unwavering though I am heavy hearted sometimes when I dont seem to get the blessings I hoped for & prayed for. It requires a good deal of patience as well as endurance to command troops successfully.

Charles is quite well, has thus far escaped shot & shells. At our mess we have Col. Sherman 85th Ill. from Chicago. He is now my Chief of Staff. Dr Heard, a handsome good & able young surgeon, my medical director. Lt. Col. Fullerton is my Adjutant General, formerly with Gen. Granger. Chas., Capt. Gilbreth & Frank Gilman. We often have very pleasant reunions i.e. at breakfast, dinner & supper. We breakfast generally at 5 a.m. Sometimes we are compelled to do so earlier still.

The news from the Army of the Potomac is still uncertain. Grant is not yet quite up to where I buried my arm. He has much hard work before him. If regular siege operations begin I fear he will send troops out here.

I hope Father & Dellie are well. Much love to them & Roland & fam.

Yr affectionate son,
Otis

2207 6/17/1864 *From:* J. Edward Hardy

To: Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2158

Source: Bowdoin

U.S. Christian
Commission.
Kentucky
Branch
Louisville Ky

Commanding 11th Army
Corps
Army of the Cumberland

[108]

[Letterhead]

U.S. Christian Commission.
Kentucky Branch

Maj Gen Howard
Commanding 11th Army Corps
Army of the Cumberland

Dear Sir

A number of the ladies of our city are desirous of forming a society for the purpose of doing all in their power to relieve the wants of our soldiers now in the hospitals and camps here and to assist the Sanitary and Christian commissions in their labors of love. They find quite a prejudice existing among our citizens against both commissions owing to reports which have been very industriously circulated to the effect, that the stores &c contributed do not reach the common soldier, that members of the commissions use their facilities for political and other selfish purposes and sometimes engage in immoral practices. In fact that both are humbugs in the largest sense of the word and are not worthy of the support of Christian people. There has been very little done in Kentucky for these commissions owing to the fact that the workings of the same have been very imperfectly understood. A strong prejudice has grown up here among the Government officials against them, especially against the Sanitary, and reports emanating from these officials are hindering contributions of money and stores to their treasury. What we desire is to remove these prejudices as far as we may. To fully succeed our ladies must have the hearty co-operation of our people and their confidence. A well organized society here will go far towards opening a general system for our state.

My object in writing to you is to ask as a favor that you will at once write our commission a statement of your experience, especially as to the work of the Christian Commission among your men and as the opportunity may offer obtain like testimonials from other officers and forward them to us. Our ladies are only waiting your response as a basis upon which to act.

We feel that we are asking a good deal of you but know that a christian heart will not fail to respond to such an appeal.

With much respect I remain
Yours truly
J. Edward Hardy Chairman
Ky Branch U.S. Christian Comm.

Louisville Ky
June 17 / 64

2208 6/19/1864 *From:* E Gilmore

To: Mrs Lizzie Howard

OOH-2159

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

[531]

Leeds June 19, 1864

My dear daughter,

Your last letter written the first of the week, I received in due season, but have let company and other duties keep me from answering it, and I learned to day that Mrs. Lothrop has butter packed for you and has been ready a week or more but the information failed to reach me until now. I am happy to receive the children, dear Guy and Grace, and only wish that I could take the butter to you, and bring them home with me, but do not see any way to do it. At one time my husband said he would go to Augusta in June but since has thought better of it, and concluded he could not. He thinks Guy and Grace would come through well in the cars. I was in hopes Grace would spend her seven'th birth day here but that is so near, she will not probably do so.

I have just been talking with my husband and he says he has learned nothing about the barrel of potatoes. If you have, be kind enough to mention in in your letter after the reception of your butter, or if you would like have the butter kept in Mrs Lothrop's sellar until fall. My husband says it can go Wednesday. I will endeavor to get it and have it packed in a bag of dried apples.

You ask where was Rodelphus. He is at Auburn studying Law, in Pulriphen's office. He was out through May, introducing text books into the different towns in Androscoggin County and Franklin County. He made well by it and will now be able to pay his own bills for some time.

I feel sometimes to almost fly. I want to see you and the children so much. How is Jamie now, is his health good? And little Chancy, is he healthy? I do not feel quite equal to going alone to Augusta with the horse and Waggon. Our harness is poor, and the waggon is not much better. I have not seen Ella and David since my return from Ind. Rowland wrote me, you mentioned you would like to get a place for Martha. If you cannot do any better I will take her in Sept, if you think best. Tell Isabella to be sure and come and see me when she comes home.

My last letter from Charles, was dated the 4th of June. All well but Maj Stinson. Dellie told me that Doc Wiggins had a letter from Mrs Stinson saying he would come home. I do hope he will recover.

Give much love to all the children, and Isabella. Accept a good share yourself.

Fondly
E Gilmore

Mrs Lizzie Howard

2210 6/20/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2160

Head Qrs 4th A.C. 2
miles from
Marietta, Ga.

Source: Bowdoin

[532]

Head Qrs 4th A.C. 2 miles from
Marietta, Ga. June 20th 1864

Dearest,

We are making rather slow progress but the country of swamps, mountains, creeks, impassible ravines & the like is exceedingly difficult are ill adapted to any but one mode of warfare and that is a skirmish on a large scale. As soon as the rebels get into a bad box they take up a new line often by changing front and we skirmish through the woods up to them and get just as near as possible and put the batteries in position and so on. This is constant work. If you should hear the firing every day you would think a great battle was in progress, but we have learned that it is only a skirmish. A good many poor fellows get wounded in these skirmishes.

I was very happy to receive such a nice letter from Gracie yesterday. I must try to write her in reply, on her birthday (the 22nd inst). How much can happen in 7 years?

Well darling I must go to my daily work and see if we cannot break through these fortified lines. Dont believe the papers. I was not on the skirmish line when my foot was hurt but in my proper place. While Gen. Woods Division was hotly engaged, I was reconnoitering for a point of attack when Harry Stinson was hurt. Stinson is now at Cleveland & doing well. Gilbreth has got his promotion. Frank Gilman has gone sick to Chatta.

God bless you all. Stinson is in good spirits and at Mr P. Craigmiles where he will get the nicest kind of care. I put Frank into good hands & hope he will soon be back well.

Much love to all.

Lovingly
yr. Otis

2211 6/20/1864

From: Joshua A.
Turpenden

To: Major General O. O.
Howard

OOH-2161

Source: Bowdoin

Camp Battery H. 5th
U.S. Arty.
Nashville, Tennessee

[109]

Camp Battery H. 5th U.S. Arty.
Nashville, Tennessee
June 20, 1864

Major General O. O. Howard
Dear Sir:

You will, doubtless, recollect the conversation that took place between us at Stevenson, Ala. in the early part of last October, when you kindly offered me a position on your staff. I was then about starting for the East, on sick leave. At the expiration of my leave, I was ordered to report to Major Gardiner U.S.A. at Augusta, Me. where I have been on duty up to the last of May, when I was ordered to join my Battery in the field. I supposed the battery was at the front, and made all arrangements to enter upon the duties of active service. I am disappointed in finding the battery at this place. It is stationed here - with the regular batteries - in the Artillery Reserve. I am desirous, if agreeable to yourself, of being placed now upon your staff. Should you be pleased to request that I be detailed for this purpose, I have no doubt the Commanding General will issue the necessary order. It would afford me no inconsiderable pleasure to be with you, General. Shall myself, and my friends, much ever esteem it a high personal favor.

Hoping that, if possible, this may be accomplished.

I have the honor
to be, General
very Respectfully &
Truly Yours,
Joshua A. Turpenden
2d Lt 5th Arty.

2212 6/22/1864 *From:* O.O. Howard

To: My dear little daughter
[Grace Howard]

OOH-2162

Head Quarters 4th
Corps
Near Marietta Georgia

Source: Bowdoin

[533]

Head Quarters 4th Corps
June 22nd 1864
Near Marietta Georgia

My dear little daughter,

I received your excellent letter yesterday, no the day before, and was very glad to hear from you and home. We are having very constant and hard work just now, and Papa gets pretty tired. The rebels made an attack upon Gen. Hookers front this evening but without success. They have done the same on Papa's command but had to go back. The shells burst about us quite briskly nowadays and make a good deal of noise but seldom hurt anybody. Poor McDonald who has been with me for nearly three years was wounded today in the foot and I fear he may have to lose it. A signal officer Capt Leonard on my staff also was wounded by a sharp shooter while sending a message.

Papa remembers this as your birthday and thinks you are seven (7) years old today. Papa was in Florida when you born at Leeds. He found you in a cradle at Auburn on his return.

Give much love to Mamma, Guy, Jamie, Chancy & the rest. Uncle Charlie sends love to Grace and the rest of the family. Papa hopes the war will soon be over so that he can go home & enjoy your society. May God bless and keep you.

Your Loving Father
O.O. Howard

2213 6/25/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2163

Head Quarters 4th A.C.
Near Marietta Ga.

Source: Bowdoin

[534]

Head Quarters 4th A.C.
Near Marietta Ga. June 25, 1864

Dearest,

It is about 4 P.M. Saturday I have not written since the evening of the 22nd and then to Grace as it was all the birth day present I could send my little daughter from here. The mail is just in and leaves again tomorrow morning. Probably you wonder at our slowness of progress lately. Gen. Sherman does not appear to be in very great haste. We will turn or break the enemy's line, but find he has prepared another. He has held on to Kennesaw & gradually swung back his left till we face nearly east. We have had a battle or grand skirmish nearly every day – cannonading is now going on near Gen. Palmer's lines. Mine are comparatively quiet today though the rebels occasionally destroy some valuable life.

We heard from Capt. Stinson through Mr. Marble Col Hayes clerk who has been with him since he left Acworth. He was doing finely last tuesday afternoon. He has ridden out on horseback and his wound is almost healed. His convalescence is remarkable. I shall advise him to take a trip home. He thinks he ought to come back. Frank Gilman is at the officer's hospital on Lookout Mountain and I hear is doing well. He was very feverish when he left us and I feared the Typhoid fever. I am anxious to get more direct word. Gilbreth has got his appointment as Captain and received his commission. He is very well and enjoys himself finely.

Charlie seems to have very good health this summer. He has got a Maine paper of the 16th and tells me the news: "3d Me. at home received quite a reception". He speaks of the few men who returned out of the thousand I took out three years ago. It is costing us heavily to prevent the destruction of the Republic.

Sometimes I feel a little discouraged but I fully believe God will carry us through this severe trial in his own good time. If we only could acknowledge Him and leave off our unbelief and our idolatry and ask his guidance. I try to do my duty daily and beg for his hand to sustain and strengthen me. He does not always grant me the measure of success I long for and my heart is saddened by it, but I understand the sufficiency of His wisdom and must submit to his chastening.

I must now go out to look at the lines.

God bless you, darling, and give you wisdom and strength; and the little ones, we commend them to his care.

Your loving husband
Otis

P.S. Sam is well.

2214 6/28/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2164

Source: Bowdoin

Headquarters Fourth
Army Corps,
Department of the
Cumberland
(Near Marietta Ga)

[535]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Fourth Army Corps,
Department of the Cumberland
June 28th (Near Marietta Ga) 1864

Dearest,

I will just drop you a line this morning to say that we are all quite well. Yesterday several assaults were made upon the enemy's works one in front of my Corps Gen. Newton's Div'n leading. Gen. Harker was mortally wounded within a few yards of the works. We lost quite heavily in officers and more men than we ought to spare in an unsuccessful assault.

The weather is very hot, and I find it takes hold of me badly.

Frank Gilman is at Chatt'a. convalescing. He talks of not coming back as he does not get an appointment and he fears it will be burdensome to me to pay him. I cannot well spare him and shall try hard for his appointment. I dont think he has had a bad fever.

Capt. Stinson was recovering rapidly when I last heard from him. Mr & Mrs Craigmiles took him right home and nursed him at Cleveland.

We are hoping to hear some good news from Grant. His losses are very severe indeed & ours are considerable. It is a high price to pay for the government, but the blessing will follow. Poor Gen. Harker was much beloved, an upright, straight-forward complete soldier, and a thorough gentleman. I cannot realize that he is really gone. He used to be a member of my prayer-meeting, I think, while at West Point. Perhaps you may remember him.

Several mails have come in without a letter from you, dearest, but the mails are so irregular here that I am not surprised. We have just had stronger infantry guards put on the exposed points of the R.R. so that we may now anticipate greater regularity.

I am afraid Guy will forget his papa if he does not write him once in a while. I feel very hopeful for Guy, that he will be a conscientious good boy "fearing God & keeping his commandments." But he will like all boys have a great many temptations to resist and will need a Saviour's help constantly. The help of that same Saviour that he and I used to talk about when he was a very little boy. He being the eldest will do a great deal towards shaping the characters of Jamie & Chancy who almost before we know it will be large boys. Gracie is quick and can think for herself and must be the Grace of the household, the one to love & be loved by all.

Time has come for the mail to leave. God bless and keep us all.

Your own loving husband.

Otis

2215 6/29/1864 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: Mrs Lizzie A. Howard

OOH-2165

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

[537]

Leeds June 29th 1864

My dear daughter,

A feeling of intense anxiety about you and your family has seemed to possess me the few days past, and just now, I resolved to try writing to you and if your health is poor, or ought else has befallen you, can not Isabella write so that we may know how it is with you. I have felt such a strong desire to see you and know how you all are, that it is but one idea with me. Your letter mailed 14th I answered. The answer was sent to Curtis Corner Monday the 20th of June. I had just heard that Mrs Lothrop had been packing butter for you, and wrote you to know whether you would have it kept till fall or sent now. I have seen Mrs Lothrop since and found it was only <lb 20> (twenty pounds). Mrs Lothrop said it was packed so that it would keep until fall.

I have been hoping to see Guy and Grace by this time. I want very much to see Jamie, and Chancy.

Rowland has been gone to the Congregationalist Conference since the 20th of June. I am in hopes they will return through Augusta and I shall hear from you through him and Ella. When will the children come? I did not mention in either of my letters that my husband's health had been poor, for he is much better and I feared you might think the Children would annoy him, and would not have them come, and I want to have them come very much. I am very lonesome. My husband is attending to his affairs as usual. Yesterday morning he went to Slabb City, to get some blacksmith work done and in the P.M. went to Wayne to Carry away his wool, and now he is repairing his tools for haying. I have looked every day for a week for a letter from you.

I had a double letter from Otis and Charles, last Friday evening, written the twelfth of June, mailed the 15th. All well at that time, and Capt Stinson doing well at that time. My husband does not like to eat away from home because he sometimes throws up two or three times, before he can manage to keep anything on his stomach. But of late he looks better and is in better spirits, and intends going to Portland the 13th of July to a Meeting of some kind concerning the railroad.

Rodelphus wrote me he might come home next Saturday, and stay until after the fourth. If he does, and Guy and Grace have not come, I will see if it will not be so that he can come for them. I do hope you will get this, in due time, and I shall hear from you soon as practicable. I mentioned (about Martha, Julia's oldest girl) in my other letter. I do not think it a very good place for her here on many accounts but if it would be any relief to you I will take her any time. I have a home well provided with comforts of life and I will take her until some better place presents. These things I only suggest.

I close, it is nearly time to send my letter to the office. Give much love and many kisses to your children and my best regards to Isabella. Does she know anything certain about Joseph.

Yours with much affection
Eliza Gilmore

Mrs Lizzie A. Howard

2216 6/30/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2166

Source: Bowdoin

Headquarters Fourth
Army Corps,
Department of the
Cumberland
Near Marietta, Ga.

[538]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Fourth Army Corps,
Department of the Cumberland
Near Marietta, Ga. June 30th 1864

Dearest,

I have just recd your letter of the 20th inst. You were not well, worn out, with too many to care for and did not feel that you had been faithful in anything. I feel very sorry and heartily sympathize with you, but think it is now ten days since she wrote and she may be rested and happy now. I can hardly forgive myself for having tried you so with J & her children, and the first opportunity you have you must let her go to some place where she can have a mistress who is physically stronger than you, and who has less other care.

I expect that grand little boy, Chancy, must pull you down much, but my darling wife while I appreciate to a keen degree the hardships and burdens and loneliness of your anxious life during these days, I must say to you as I often have to say and feel here: Cheer up, a cloud & then the bright sun. When you need rest darling, take it with all its direful consequences, take it even if things get out of place. I am obliged to do so.

The Army of the Potomac has absorbed the public attention and the accounts of this army's doings are much overshadowed, but for constancy of fighting I have never seen the equal of this campaign. My own corps has lost in killed and wounded and missing in action upwards of 5000 (nearly 6000) men since we began work before Dalton.

Last night about 2 o'clock A.M. a tremendous musketry fire struck up. We all got up & dressed. Artillery opened. How fearful this would have been at the beginning of the war, but now we quietly send out scouts & officers to see where the firing is. The rebels had attacked a working party that was running a new line in front of our works. In a half hour all was quiet and we undress and go to sleep.

We have become so accustomed to danger that matters go on with perfect business like composure. Our lines are close. Last night one of Stanley's men called out "come rebs, stop firing let us go to sleep". The answer back was "all right" and immediately the firing ceased. This was not far from where the working party was attacked and the opposing lines were firing though not very briskly.

Last night during the melee a rebel captain lost his way and stepped from his pickets to ours without knowing it, and began instructing our men when they took him and brought him in. He was much mortified.

My letters must be irregular for a time. I have sent to Chattanooga to have some pay forwarded to you. Frank Gilman who is still there is to draw it and send to your order. Give much love & many kisses to the children. I hope you found father better and mother well. Tell me about your visit to Leeds if you went. Stinson was nicely at last accts. Capt. Gilbreth is very well & happy. So is Charles. With much love and the same prayer for us all, that God may keep us safely.

I am yours Lovingly
Otis